



# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Waverly Teens Become First High School Students To Participate In Full Tour At Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant**

**Piketon, Ohio** — About 30 students from Waverly High School participated in a full tour of the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant on Friday, November 19, 2010, as part of continuing community outreach efforts by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The tour was the first of its kind for a group of high school students in the plant's 58-year history.

Students were briefed on the history of the plant and subject matter experts explained the gaseous diffusion process and the nuclear fuel cycle. The students then toured one of the three large process buildings (X-333), the plant control facility (X-300), and participated in a bus tour that included a description of the functions of various plant facilities.

Dr. Vincent Adams, the plant's site director, said interaction with the area's young people not only educates them about the plant, but gives them a valuable understanding of the role it plays in the regional economy and the employment opportunities that exist.

"The Waverly High School administrators should be commended for their foresight in helping us provide their students with an experience that can have long-lasting ramifications," Dr. Adams said. "Having an understanding of what this facility means to this community is important for young people. It also gives them an idea of the range of jobs

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available right here at home through the pursuit of math- and science-related fields.”

Waverly High School Principal Bill Hoover said the students received a detailed explanation of the plant’s operations and a historical perspective on the plant’s role in the nuclear fuel cycle.

“This opportunity provided information to students interested in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) careers with the nuclear fuel cycle, plant infrastructure, and the process of gaseous diffusion,” Waverly High School Principal Bill Hoover said. “Students were able to see the importance of math and science in relation to practical application in our community. We are grateful to the U.S. Department of Energy and the Ohio Appalachian Center for Higher Education for making this rewarding experience a reality for our students.”

Waverly High School was awarded a STEM grant in September through the Ohio Appalachian Center for Higher Education to promote careers and higher education in the STEM areas. Funds received from this grant were used to pay for transportation expenses for the DOE tour.

The Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant is a 3,778-acre federal reservation that was built in the early 1950s as part of the nation’s nuclear weapons complex, and enriched uranium from 1954-2001. Limited cleanup activities at the site have been under way since the 1990s. DOE is responsible for cleaning up the nation’s gaseous diffusion buildings in accordance with the U.S. Energy Policy Act of 1992.

## DOE##

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